

location where it began, the Ford House Office Building. During her time with the CAO, Jewell has provided support to not only the CAO but also to Leadership, the Committee on House Administration, other House Officers, Member and Committee offices, and the general public. Jewell has always treated each individual with respect and a sense of priority, and her actions have always been driven by a desire to provide courteous and unsurpassed customer service.

Jewell provided extensive administrative support to the Incident Commander during the September 11th and anthrax crises of 2001. She was a valuable asset to this team, going above and beyond the call to duty to ensure that the work of the House continued during those trying times. She has been tremendous in her support of the CAO and my staff at the Committee on House Administration. This institution will truly miss her important contributions, and I wish her nothing but continued success and happiness in her retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Citizenship Project as this year's recipient of the Ralph B. Atkinson Award for Civil Liberties. Each year the Atkinson Award, named for the distinguished civil rights advocate Ralph B. Atkinson, is presented to a local advocate for civil liberties. This year the Monterey County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union selected the Citizenship Project, which was founded in 1994 by Teamsters Local 890 in response to the passage of Proposition 187. The project is dedicated to an expanded citizenship and consistently represents such values as education and self-organization through mutual support. In 2004 they became a close partner to the Central Labor Council, and are currently helping the Labor Council form a new coalition for immigrant rights here on the Central Coast.

Maria Echavarria, the Project's Acting Director, and Tony Acosta were extremely instrumental in the success of this project. With the help of over 1,000 immigrant community volunteers, the Citizenship Project has provided low-cost immigration services, registered thousands of new voters, and conducted voter workshops for new citizens. With their assistance, over 15,000 residents of the Central Coast have applied for U.S. Citizenship.

Since 1998 they have sponsored Jovenes en Accion Youth in Action. This immigrant youth leadership development program registers voters, teaches in the school, produces plays about their experience, and has led the struggle in our region for educational & employment rights for undocumented youth.

Furthermore, they build citizenship by helping people form groups to act together. They have launched La Hermandad de Ex-Braceros Brotherhood of Ex-Braceros, Mujeres del Sur Triqui women in Greenfield, and La Alianza para una Mañana Mejor south Salinas Valley Latino political club with this objective in mind.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to honor the accom-

plishments of the Citizenship Project and express my sincere gratitude for their commitment to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE KAZAR, NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Kazar, who is retiring as a volunteer firefighter for the City of St. Helena, in California's 1st District. Mr. Kazar's outstanding contributions and dedication to our community are truly appreciated.

Mike Kazar will be leaving the Saint Helena Fire Department after twenty years of service. He currently serves as the Captain of the department. In addition to his duties in Saint Helena, Mike Kazar also volunteers for the Sand Point-Sagle Idaho area Volunteer Fire Department. He served as Captain of the Moraga/Orinda Fire Department for 37 years. He is also a member and safety officer on the State OES Overhead Team.

A native of California, Mr. Kazar was born in Carmel. He graduated from Miramonte High School in Orinda in 1960. While growing up in Moraga, Mike Kazar and his family lived in an apartment over the family owned grocery store. Next-door was a firehouse which peaked his interest in the profession.

He served four years in the Navy as a firefighter stationed in Guam. Mike Kazar has one daughter, Michelle Hill and two granddaughters. Mike loves to spend time outdoors and is especially fond of hunting.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Mike Kazar set the standard of dependability, bravery and hard work that should be followed in all communities. His commitment to our community has been shown time and time again. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor him at the time of his retirement and extend our best wishes to him.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH FURMANICK FOR RECEIVING THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD AND MONROE COUNTIES FROM THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a fellow South Floridian educator, Elizabeth Furmanick, for having been awarded the National Catholic Education Association's prestigious Principal of the Year Award for Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties.

The Archdiocese of Miami gave Elizabeth this prestigious award for her work in leading St. John the Apostle School in Hialeah, Florida for the past 12 years. She has been with the school for a total of 28 years, serving as a teacher and vice-principal.

Friends describe her as an extremely dedicated principal whose main concern is the well-being of the children entrusted to her care. She also makes it a point to know all her students by their first names. She has an open-door policy for all students and teachers. She encourages them to talk to her about their concerns and feelings so that they may have a more rewarding educational experience.

Elizabeth Furmanick's receipt of the Principal of the Year Award exemplifies her dedication to educating South Florida's children. For almost three decades, she has worked tirelessly to ensure, inspire and encourage her students to reach higher goals.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for your dedication.

EXPRESSING THE URGENCY OF PASSING POSTAL REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the urgency of passing meaningful postal reform legislation.

A vibrant and healthy Postal Service is critical to the entire U.S. economy. The nation's mailing industry is an important primary and secondary employer, and contributes approximately \$900 billion dollars, or about 8 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. However, over the past few years, due to declining mail volume, and increased delivery costs, the Postal Service has accrued a tremendous debt. This debt leaves the Postal Service with no alternative but to raise postage rates, which they have done four times in the past five years.

I have been a leader on postal reform for several years, and we have come a long way. During my tenure as Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, I pushed for significant postal reform legislation. In 2003, we passed the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act. This was a positive step in the right direction, however, it was a temporary fix for a complex issue, and only staved off postage increases until 2006. Again, earlier this year, understanding the necessity of comprehensive postal reform legislation, the Government Reform Committee debated postal reform, and unanimously passed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, H.R. 4341, through a comprehensive and broad bi-partisan process.

If this body fails to act within the next few months, double-digit postage rate increases are likely to be proposed in 2006. An increase of this size will undoubtedly lead to a reduction in First Class mail usage, which again would further threaten the financial stability of the Postal Service. A rate increase of this size will ultimately have many negative impacts, not only for the Postal Service, its employees, and the whole mailing industry, but also on the American public, and our nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is vital that we pass meaningful postal reform legislation immediately, which will ensure the short-term health and long-term vitality of the Postal Service. If we fail to address this issue in a timely manner, we will be guilty of complacency by permitting an unfair, and heavily burdensome \$3.5 billion tax hike on the American economy through increased postal rates.